## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

IN RE SQUIRRELS RESEARCH LABS LLC, ET	Case No. 21-61491-TNAP
AL.	(JOINTLY ADMINISTERED)
Debtors	Chapter 11
	SUBCHAPTER V
	JUDGE PATTON
Frederic P. Schwieg, Trustee	Adversary No.
Plaintiff	
V. JESSICA GRITZAN Defendant	ALL DOCUMENTS REGARDING THIS MATTER MUST BE IDENTIFIED BY <b>BOTH</b> ADVERSARY AND BANKRUPTCY CASE NUMBERS AND NAME OF JUDGE

ADVERSARY COMPLAINT TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY, PRIORITY OR EXTENT OF A LIEN OR OTHER INTEREST IN PROPERTY; TO RECOVER PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS, TO RECOVER FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS, TO OBTAIN A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT RELATING TO THE FOREGOING AND OTHER RELIEF.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and (d).
- 2. This adversary proceeding is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (B), (C), (K) and (O).
- 3. To the extent that the matters herein are determined not to be core proceedings, they are related to the bankruptcy case referenced above and Plaintiff consents and alleges that each Defendant also consents to the referral of this adversary proceeding to the bankruptcy judge to hear and determine and to enter appropriate orders and judgments, subject to review under 28 U.S.C. § 158.

#### **PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff Frederic P. Schwieg is the duly appointed Subchapter V Trustee ("Trustee") for the bankruptcy case in which this adversary proceeding is commenced.

5. Defendant Jessica Gritzan, 1280 Linwood Ave SW, North Canton, OH 44720 ("Defendant").Defendant is the recipient of certain transfers from the Debtor as identified below and may be served with the summons and complaint at such address. At all times relevant to this complaint the Defendant was a member of the Debtor and Defendant is an insider of the Debtor as defined in 11 USC §101(31).

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 6. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here.
- 7. On November 23, 2021 (the "Petition Date"), Squirrels Research Labs LLC ("Debtor") filed its voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").
- 8. On November 30, 2021, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed the Trustee [Case Doc. 35].
- 9. The Debtor's amended plan of reorganization [Case Doc. 237] ("Plan") was confirmed by the court on July 28, 2022 [Case Doc. 269].
- 10. Under the Plan the Trustee was given the power to investigate certain transfers to insiders of the Debtor, including Defendant.
- 11. At all times material to this complaint the Debtor was insolvent and unable to pay its obligations when due.
- 12. From time to time the Defendant either advanced funds or credit to the Debtor and received repayment of such advances of funds or credit from the Debtor. The dates of the extension of funds and the transfers received from the Debtor are accurately set forth on Exhibit A ("Transfers").

#### **COUNT I – RECHARACTERIZATION**

13. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here.

- 14. The advances of funds and credit from the Defendant to Debtor were not debt obligations but rather contributions to capital of the Debtor.
  - 15. The Transfers were therefore on account of capital contributions and not debts.

### COUNT II IMPLIED FRAUDULENT TRANSFER FEDERAL LAW

- 16. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here.
- 17. The Debtor received less than a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers to Defendant.
- 18. On the date(s) of the Transfers to Defendant, the sum of the Debtor's debts was greater than all of the Debtor's property, at a fair valuation, exclusive of property transferred, concealed, or removed with intent to hinder, delay, or defraud his creditors; or it became insolvent as a result of the Transfers to Defendant.
- 19. At the time of the Transfers to Defendant, the Debtor was engaged in business or a transaction, or was about to engage in business or a transaction, for which any property remaining with the Debtor was an unreasonably small capital.
- 20. At the time of the Transfers to Defendant, the Debtor intended to incur, or believed that the Debtor would incur, debts beyond the Debtor's ability to pay as such debts matured.
- 21. Therefore, the Transfers to Defendant may be avoided pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §548 and are recoverable from the Defendant pursuant to section 550(a).

### COUNT III- IMPLIED FRAUDULENT TRANSFER—STATE LAW

- 22. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here.
- 23. The Debtor owed money to creditors holding allowable unsecured claims against this bankruptcy estate before the time of the Transfers to Defendant.
- 24. The Debtor did not receive a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers to Defendant.

- 25. The sum of the Debtor's debts were greater than all of the assets of the Debtor at fair valuation at the time of the Transfers to Defendant.
- 26. The Debtor was generally not paying its debts as they became due at the time of the Transfers to Defendant.
- 27. The Debtor was insolvent or was rendered insolvent as a result of the Transfers to Defendant.
- 28. At the time of the Transfers to Defendant the Debtor was engaged or about to engage in a business or a transaction for which the remaining assets of the Debtor was unreasonably small in relation to the business or transaction.
- 29. At the time of the Transfers to Defendant the Debtor intended to incur, or believed or reasonably should have believed that it would incur debts beyond its ability to pay as they came due.
- 30. Therefore the Transfers to Defendant may be avoided pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 1336.04 and 1336.05, and 11 U.S.C. §544 and are recoverable from the Ibex pursuant to section 550(a).

#### <u>COUNT IV – PREFERENCE</u>

- 31. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here.
- 32. To the extent the Transfers were for payment of a debts the Transfers in the one-year period prior to the Petition Date were made to or for the benefit of Defendant.
- 33. The t Transfers in the one-year period prior to the Petition Date were for or on account of an antecedent debt owed by the Debtor before such Transfers were made.
- 34. The Transfers in the one-year period prior to the Petition Date enabled the Defendant to receive more than such creditor would receive in the Debtor's case under Chapter 7 of

Title 11 of the United States Code, and if the Defendant received payment of such debt to the extent provided by Chapter 7 of Title 11 of the United States Code.

35. Therefore, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547, Plaintiff may avoid the transfer of the Transfers in the one-year period prior to the Petition Date to Defendant, and are recoverable from the Defendant pursuant to section 550(a).

### **COUNT V- RECOVERY**

- 36. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here..
- 37. Therefore, Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§544, 548 and 550 the Debtor may recover the value of the Transfers to Defendant from Ibex.

### **COUNT VI- DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

- 38. The allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference here..
- 39. The should declare that Ibex's remaining Claims, if any are unsecured against any assets of the estate.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Frederic P. Schwieg, Trustee, requests Judgment as follows:

- That this Court enter an order that the extensions of money or credit to the Debtor by Defendant were contributions to capital and not debts of the Debtor;
- 2. That this Court enter an order avoiding the Transfers to Defendant as they were fraudulent transfers under Federal and Ohio state law; and
- 3. That this Court enter an order avoiding the Transfers to Defendant in the one year period prior to the Petition Date as they were preferential transfers under Federal law;
- 4. That the Court award the Trustee judgment in the amount of the Transfers, to wit \$177,987.88; and

such further relief and such further equities as this Court deems just.

Respectfully Submitted, /s/ Frederic P. Schwieg

Frederic P. Schwieg, Esq. (0030418) Attorney at Law 19885 Detroit Rd #239 Rocky River, Ohio 44116 (440) 499-4506 Fax (440) 398-0490 fschwieg@schwieglaw.com Subchapter V Trustee

# Squirrels Research Labs LLC Transactions: Jessica Gritzan All Dates

Account #	Date	n Type Bill Payment	Num	Memo/Description	Amount	A/P Paid	Comments from D Stanfill report
110 Checking x6063	10/16/2018	(Check)	589	Jessica Chevalier Reimbursements	7,274.57	Paid	International shipping
10 Checking x6063	10/16/2018	Check Bill Payment	539	1525 Materials Reimbursement for Warehouse	33.59	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill as pymt to J Gritzar
10 Checking x6063	07/22/2019 8/16/19	(Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,210.47	Paid	Michael P/Dave/Jess flights
10 Checking x6063	8/16/19 12/11/2019	Check	673	No Description provided - pymt entry to acct #7140 Consulting Fees	1,000.00 500.00	Paid	Component order Consulting fee
10 Checking x6063	03/18/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	182.71	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	03/18/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	601.59	Paid	Paid against open balance
<u> </u>	03/18/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1,000.00	Paid	
110 Checking x6063		Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	,,,,,,		Paid against open balance
110 Checking x6063	03/18/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,215.70	Paid	Paid against open balance
010 Checking x6063	03/18/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	5,000.00	Paid	Paid against open balance
110 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	177.78	Paid	Component order
110 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	354.40	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	756.25	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	(Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,387.08	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,606.20	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,000.00	Paid	Jess pay to construction crew
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	4,777.45	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	04/21/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	20,064.86	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	05/28/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	14,000.00	Paid	Paid against open balance
	08/13/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,800.00	Paid	
10 Checking x6063		Bill Payment					Jess paid DK against balance
10 Checking x6063	08/14/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,200.00	Paid	Jess paid DK against balance
10 Checking x6063	08/26/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,011.41	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	08/26/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,988.59	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	08/27/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,146.91	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	08/27/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,853.09	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	08/28/2020	(Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,000.00	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	10/08/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	692.61	Paid	Paid against open balance
010 Checking x6063	10/08/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	807.39	Paid	Paid against open balance
010 Checking x6063	10/09/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,180.86	Paid	Paid against open balance
•	10/12/20				249.00		Refunded on cc
110 Checking x6063	10/13/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	48.26	Paid	Paid against open balance
110 Checking x6063	10/13/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	370.93	Paid	Paid against open balance
110 Checking x6063	10/13/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,489.95	Paid	Paid against open balance
110 Checking x6063	10/13/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	5,590.86	Paid	Paid against open balance
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		Bill Payment					
110 Checking x6063	10/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	201.17	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	10/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	327.99	Paid	Paid against open balance
10 Checking x6063	10/21/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,199.68	Paid	Paid against open balance
010 Checking x6063	11/05/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	869.46	Paid	Digikey order
010 Checking x6063	11/09/2020	(Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	384.92	Paid	Component order
10 Checking x6063	12/10/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,400.65	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/11/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	5,000.00	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/16/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	120.55	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/16/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	154.11	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/16/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	157.10	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/16/2020	Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	160.70	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
	12/16/2020	Bill Payment		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Paid	
10 Checking x6063		(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	683.29		Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/16/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,724.25	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	12/17/2020	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	3,767.79	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
10 Checking x6063	01/07/2021	(Check) Bill Payment		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	0.04	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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	02/03/2021	Bill Payment (Check)			70.92	Paid	
010 Checking x6063		Bill Payment (Check)		No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001  No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	70.92 84.35	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill  Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
010 Checking x6063	02/03/2021						

1010 Checking x6063	02/03/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	211.24	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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1010 Checking x6063	02/03/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,452.66	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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1010 Checking x6063	02/03/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,912.89	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	02/03/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,680.86	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	Bill Payment (Check) Bill Payment	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	314.69	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	(Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	683.00	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	Bill Payment (Check) Bill Payment	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	718.49	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,231.41	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	1,649.29	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	Bill Payment (Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,046.07	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
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1010 Checking x6063	04/28/2021	(Check) Bill Payment	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	11,235.86	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	04/29/2021	(Check) Bill Payment	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	561.90	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill
1010 Checking x6063	05/27/2021	(Check)	No Description provided - pymt through Accounts Payable #2001	2,153.11 <b>177,987.88</b>	Paid	Not listed in report provided by D Stanfill

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